

# Community Group Covenants

Everyone in your group will come with different expectations of what the group should be. This is often based on their past experiences. A written group covenant sets and clarifies realistic expectations and provides a clear purpose and vision for your group. It identifies specific roles, values and boundaries. Covenants help groups avoid misunderstandings and unmet expectations. It allows you to hold people accountable to clearly stated group standards. On the next page is a sample Community Group covenant which you can modify for your own group, if desired.

## Establishing Your Group Covenant

In some groups a pre-set covenant is written before the first meeting. In some groups an open-ended and collaborative effort over many meetings is preferred. Below is a process somewhere in the middle and will be helpful for many groups.

- **Step 1: Preparation.** Draft a covenant with your apprentice leaving blanks/space where you want the group's specific input.
- **Step 2: Conversation.** At the group meeting give a copy to each group member (this can be done the very first time the group gathers or elsewhere in the early stages of the group's life). Discuss each point as needed to make sure clarity and relevance is achieved.
- **Step 3: Values.** Work towards agreement. Be flexible on non-essentials, yet firm on essentials, which may include: participation, confidentiality, support, and Community Group mission.
- **Step 4: Commitment.** Initial buy-in and agreement to abide by the covenant is crucial. Increased investment by group members in the creation and continued development of the covenant increases their ownership of the group and its purpose.
- **Review Regularly.** Revisiting the covenant with your group sustains healthy boundaries and helps the group evaluate itself. Creatively review your Group Covenant roughly every four weeks. Ask... *"Where are we doing well?" "What needs improvement?" "Where does our covenant need to change?"*
- **Open Groups:** Newcomers should be made aware of the group covenant. Be sure to distribute the covenant to new participants before or after their first visit.

### Topics to Consider for Your Covenant:

#### LOGISTICS

Start & End Time  
Frequency of Meeting  
Length of Time  
Hosting/Location  
Childcare  
Absences/Attendance

#### VALUES

8 CCC Group Values  
Confidentiality  
Respect for Others  
Good Listening Habits

#### PURPOSES

Group Openness  
Group Multiplication  
Study Expectations  
Shared Participation  
Serving Projects

# Our Community Group Covenant (Sample)

*“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” Hebrews 10:25*

## LOGISTICS

We will meet every Wednesday at Jim and Tammy’s from 7pm to 8:30pm

We will strive to start and end on time but better to come late than not at all.

If you can’t make a group meeting, please let the leader or host know.

Feel free to hang-out after the meeting, but please scram by 9:30pm so the hosts can go to bed.

**VALUES:** As a CCC Community Group we will pursue the eight CCC Community Group values:

### Belonging Values

Ownership: Everyone invests in the group

Friendship: Encouraging relationships

Care: A safe environment of mutual support

Accountability: Applied with wisdom and love

### Growing Values

Bible: Application-focused study

Prayer: Earnest and impactful

Transformation: A community of life-change

Leadership: CCC trained and coached

Also...

Confidentiality: What’s shared in the group stays in the group.

Each of us is invited and expected to participate in the discussion.

Each of us will listen well and will avoid dominating the discussion.

We will avoid “fixing” people, snap judgments and easy answers.

## PURPOSES

We will be open to new members and invite those who might be interested.

We will begin multiplying the group when we reach 12-14 regular attenders.

We will meet for twelve months and then evaluate our direction.

We will perform a service project in the community three times a year.

## ADDITIONAL CCC GUIDELINES WORTH NOTING

50%+ of our study will be directly focused on the Bible

No Alcohol is to be served during the group meeting

Don’t solicit your business to the group members

